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The Story of the Edelweiss, BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

ON ONE the hand of misfortune fell,
And they led him away to a prison cell.
He met in the street a little child,
And she looked up in his face and smiled.
She saw that to prison his pathway led
May GOD be with you," she softly said.
"GOD!" with a scornful laugh cried he.
Who is this GOD that we never see?
"There is none, Yet you believe as true
This tale they have told. Well, I pity you."
I need no pity," she bravely said:
"Tis you have need of mine instead,"
For a dreary life and a desolate heart.
Is that in which GOD can have no part?"
She took from her basket a little flower
"It may seem like a friend in a lonely hour."
And she put in his hand an Edelweiss.
She had dug that day
Under mountain skies.

The prisoner paced his cell of stone
But somehow he seemed not to be alone
In the grated window his Edelweiss
Turned ever its face to the far-off skies.
He watched the leaves of the plant unfold
And this is the story the Edelweiss told.

"There is God on the hills where my life began,
The God of the flower, and the God of the man.
He is here with us in this prison cell.
Oh this dear God loveth his own so well!

Ever I turn to the wide, free skies,
So near to the home of the Edelweiss.

So a longing stirs in your breast alway
For the hearts true home on the hills of day
Can a flower be wiser than man?" cried he;
Has this brought a message from God to me?

He bowed his face on his hands and said.
"God of the living & God of the dead,
God of this flower and God of me,
Lead me out of my darkness up to Thee."

He felt his doubts & his yearnings cease
His heart was flooded with sudden peace.
There is a God! and his face was bright
And his heart, like the Edelweiss

turned to the light
He bore with him from his prison cell.
The flower that had lived its mission well
"Your God and mine is the same," said he:
You shall share the freedom that comes to me."
And back to the hills & its own dear skies.

He tenderly
bore the
Edelweiss

And he knelt to kiss the flower and say
These good-bye words, ere he went his way
"You have led me from darkness into the light"
And the heart of the flower was glad that night!

A VILLAGE BOTANY CLUB.

ERHAPS your readers will be interested in some account of a botany class, started here about a year ago among some ladies; *housekeepers*, with families, and all the care which that implies.

All of us are very fond of flowers, and have our "beds" in the summer and window plants in the winter, with more or less (frequently less) success.

We concluded to review our school-day lessons, and as each had an old text-book, the authors and editors being as many as ourselves, we agreed upon "How plants grow," using our old books for reference and additional information and examples.

We have met each week for three ours' study and talk. When the weather has been pleasant we have taken walks and found practical illustrations, and have analyzed flowers as they came round in their season. All have been so interested that only unavoidable obstacles have kept any of us away when the afternoon came round. We have picnics and excursions of various sorts, keeping true to our name, and have had just as good times as the young folks of half our age, and with it all we have gained in health as well.

This winter we are making especial study of trunks and branches. None of us realized before the infinite variety in the form and appearance of the bare shrubs and trees.

Once a month we vary our lesson by taking some plant for study. Our last lesson was on the geranium, dividing it into the topics: Its native home and climate, with varieties; by whom and when introduced into other countries and its subsequent cultivation; its variations in leaves and blossoms; the zonal varieties; fragrant and deeply cut leaves; ivy leaf, and the pelargoniums.

Five had this subject a month for study, and another five take the begonia for the next month's special. We surprised ourselves by the amount of interesting information we searched out and that was wholly new to the most of us. With it all, was told our individual experience in cultivation that was fertile in suggestion to the others.

It will be strange if that afternoon's lesson does not show results in the geranium beds of next summer's gardens.

A. M. H.

Bond Hill, Ohio.

ANNUAL FLOWERS.

IN reconnoitering for the spring campaign take into account the most satisfactory annual flowers, so easily grown from seeds. Select seeds from the catalogues and follow the direction for planting. First on the list of beautiful flowers raised annually from seeds stands the beautiful and fragrant "*sweet pea*." Eckford's large flowering hybrids are the best, and in the size of the flowers and the varied tints, from pure white, peach blow, shell-pink, on through the deep reds, wine, brick-dust carmine and one deep red almost purple, they stand pre-eminent over the old favorites, which, however, are too good to reject, especially the old favorite "*Painted Lady*." Sweet peas, old or new, are beautiful flowers, but the new ones

are simply perfect. Plant them early. Do not wait for warm weather. They never do much planted late in the season. Here in the South, unless the seeds are in the ground by February, or at furthest first of March, they never do much, and they respond more readily to earlier planting. Freezes here do no injury to them. The sweet pea likes soil of about the same fertility that is given the edible garden pea. It ought to be well spaded and then pulverized thoroughly with the hoe and rake before the seeds are planted. After they come up and begin to grow, stir the soil every day, unless too wet. This constant stirring of the soil is the very life of its growth. If it happens to be very dry it may not be amiss to apply liquid manure now and again. Whatever support taste or convenience may suggest, give it to them while the pretty light green vines are young, so the little tendrils will have something to cling to from the start.

Phlox Drummondii does well in the South planted in August or September, and allowed to stand where it grows all winter. But if not sown then, get the seeds in the ground in January or February, as they never do much planted after that time. I buy phlox by the ounce, and plant freely. Its rich masses of color are fine among the lawn grass, on borders, and in beds to itself. I saw a yard once that had self-sown phlox all over it that was so thick it waved in the wind like wheat or oats, and people drove by and walked by, and stopped to look over the fence at the little sea of white and crimson and purple blooms. Once planted here, it will come up for years of itself, but while it does very well to let the self-sown plants bloom ahead as they like, I emphatically recommend an annual purchase of fresh seeds from a professional seedsman. They produce much finer flowers than home-saved or self-sown seeds. *Scabiosa* or mourning bride is an old annual that will come up and bloom for years and years from one planting. Its long stems recommend it for vases of cut flowers.

Antirrhinum or snap dragon is a fine annual, and comes into blooming early if the seeds are sown in hot bed or a box and protected from cold till about an inch high. This flower is a source of delight to children. They call it "snap cap," and make it snap the end of the finger by compressing the neck of the tube.

Balsam or "*touch-me-not*," is another annual children are fond of. The seed pods explode and scatter the seeds upon the least touch, hence the name. They are so easily raised that there is never any necessity for restriction being placed upon the children's handling them. The improved strains of camellia-flowered balsams are exceedingly beautiful and fragrant, double to the center and possessing choice colors and shades. The home-raised seeds in this climate will invariably come up single, while the ones bought from a seedsman are perfectly double. The sensitive plant, or sensitive mimosa, is an annual that comes on late, and it is just as well to plant late as early. The hot summer sun is needed for its development. In some sections along the Southern rivers it grows wild, and when thick masses are in bloom is very pretty indeed, with the mimosa-like pink tessellated flowers. But the bloom is not the principal attraction. The curious properties of the foliage is what recommends it, and where there are children that take an interest

in flowers it ought to be planted. The leaves close and the branches droop upon the slightest touch, even with a straw. A bird scudding along happening to touch the feathery mass of leaves will cause all to droop as if dead. Children delight to put them to sleep. In about ten minutes they revive and can be put to sleep again. From the time the fourth leaf comes out they can be touched and made to droop, and will revive, with no injury whatever. Well do I remember when I first began the study of botany how indignant I felt when the definition was given to "What is meant by the sensitiveness of plants?" "their irritability." My old favorites were, and are still, the most patient and complaisant of plants, from the time of first showing the leaves till frost falls and kills them. I am not sure yet that this is a good definition.

Marguerite carnations ought to be first and last among flower seeds to plant. They bloom in four months from time of planting, and are every way the rivals of the world-famous carnations. In colors they are rich and superb and very double and large, with spicy, suggestive, sweet perfume. Their introduction tends very much to simplify the rather difficult culture of the carnation. After raising these famous flowers from seeds, I say lead them forward, bring them before the foot-lights and give them *encore*. Nothing better has been introduced in the past twenty years. Achillea, lantana, canna, carnations, verbena, perennial phlox, gloxinia, heliotrope, chrysanthemums and many flowers that are expensive to buy, come well from seeds, and I find that to follow the main line of direction given in the catalogues for their culture ensures success. From Mr. James Vick, Sr., of most respected memory, I learned one thing about planting flower seeds that I wish everybody would learn, and that is to plant in fine soil, cover with fine soil, and *press* evenly and gently, but firmly, the entire surface. The soil if left loose, he said, around the plants, admitted air and heat that dried the seeds when they first sprouted, and caused them to wither and die.

Lexington, Miss.

G. T. D.

KEROSENE EMULSION.

WE have so frequently advised the use of kerosene emulsion for the destruction of insects and described the manner of preparing it that it sometimes seems as if it might weary our readers, as an oft-told tale. But new readers who have not learned about it still make inquiries concerning insects which if once given a dose of emulsion would no longer be troublesome. This is the way advice concerning it is given in the *Pacific Tree and Vine*:

"In our Southern experience with tender plants, such as pelargoniums, geraniums, and the like, we were very much troubled with a little green worm, also a green louse (*aphis*). We tried sulphur, tobacco smoke, gourd leaf smoke, and various strong solutions. Our gardener, or help (Carter), often puzzled his head to put an end to the torments, but to no permanent purpose. In a few days after the drenching they were as bad as ever. The worms we would pick off and thus get rid of. A few days ago we discovered on some large pot plants both pests at once. By a thorough spraying with kerosene emulsion not one is now to be seen. The emulsion is prepared in a small way by putting one cup of boiling hot soapsuds into a bottle. Then add two cups of kerosene oil, and shake vigorously for five minutes. A little of this diluted with from ten to fifteen times its bulk of warm water, will make a solution of the proper strength for spraying. One of the little perfumery sprays worked with a rubber bulb, will answer every purpose."



SPRING'S TOCSIN.

Some March morn when the skies are blue,
And earth is robed in white anew,
The Phebe-bird's note, ringing clear,
Shall charm the wrapt attentive ear;
For with that note's resounding ring
Is struck the tocsin of the spring.

By noon the snow has settled deep,
The rivers, sobbing, wake from sleep;
All pearly clear, snow-water rills
Slip, bright and sparkling, down the hills,
Like skeins of raveled floss, out-spun
From earth's robes by the teasing sun.

Later, the leaden sky broods low,
The wild geese southward fly full slow;
No ray can pierce the misty veil
Which settles round the sunset pale.
And as the child who laughs must weep,
Slowly the daylight sulks to sleep.

At night we listen to the rain
Which rings its rythm on the pane,
Till thought and feeling glide in rhyme
To dreams of joyous summer-time.
But morn shall prove that not in vain
Earth reads the riddle of the rain.

She knows what serves to quickly start
The hidden force at nature's heart;
The sap within the maple bole;
The grass upon the swelling knoll;
The wheat, the corn; till earth shall see
A teeming harvest full and free.

Sweet sun, bright rain! twin powers are they
To chase the winter gloom away;
To wake anew the world to mirth;
To give a thousand fair hopes birth;
So gladly from the Phebe's throat,
We hail the springtime's primal note.

DART FAIRTHORNE.

A PARSONAGE FLOWER GARDEN.

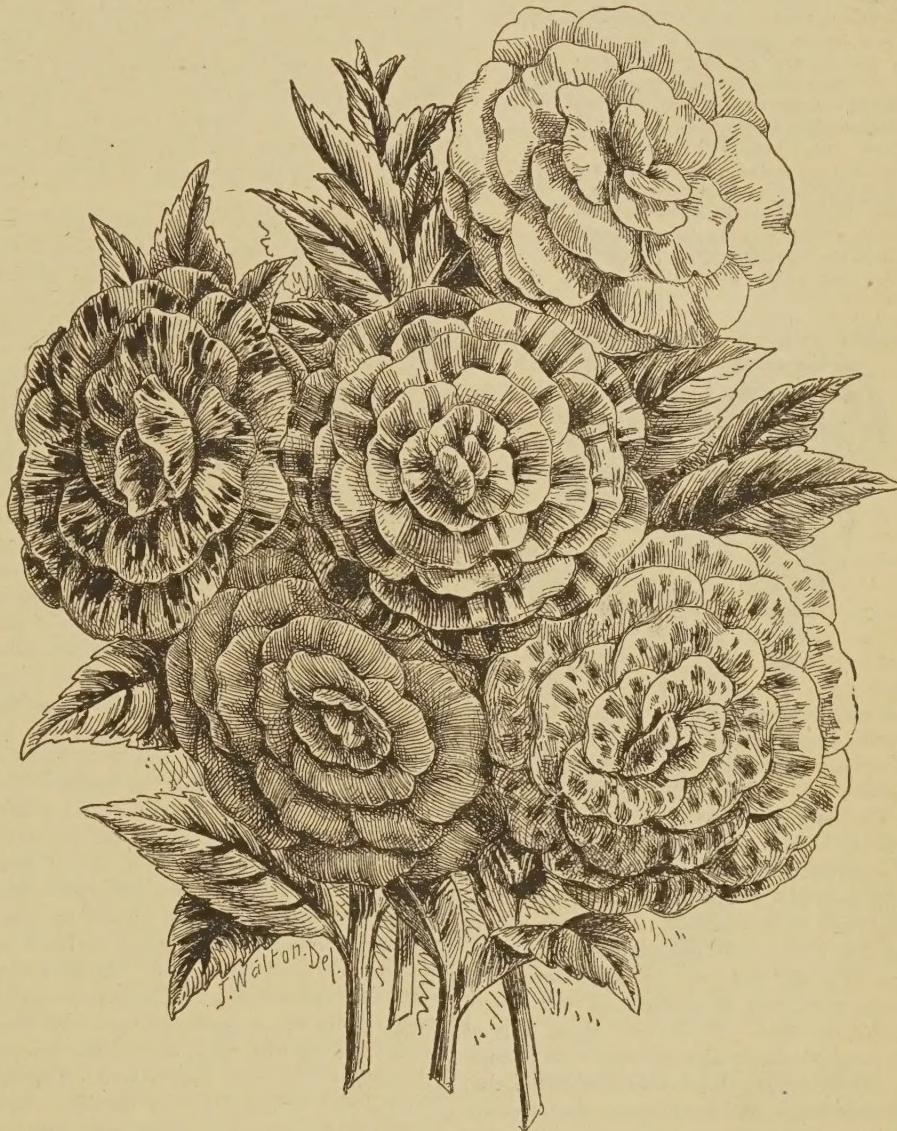
Y FIRST flower garden was made when I had been married six years. Perhaps even this would have been only a dream, had it not been for Rika, the tall blond Norwegian girl who held sway over my kitchen. She was passionately fond of flowers, and when I found her one day poring over a flower catalogue, I decided to have, not just a bed or two of pansies or geraniums, but a real flower garden. When I asked John for a third of the garden plot for flowers, he looked at me with an odd smile that seemed to say "You know nothing of what you are undertaking; that spot will grow up to weeds before the summer is over." But my request was cheerfully granted.

On one side of the parsonage a strip of grass separated us from the little church; on the other side was the patch of ground I had chosen for my garden. The seeds were ordered and came in good time, and the little packages, full of such wonderful possibilities, were fingered eagerly. Pansies and balsams, phlox and pinks, verbenas, petunias and sweet alyssum were all sowed in the house, long before anything could be done out of doors. How those tin cans were tended! They were moved into the sunlight and into the shade, and into warm rooms and into cool rooms, until the tiny green leaves began to show, and then the care was redoubled. And they did thrive, those little plants. The season was very late; it was almost June before anything could be done out of doors in the way of sowing seeds; and had it not been for the

healthy little plants that Rika and I had ready to transplant, our garden would have been but a bare looking spot until far into the summer. It was a wet season and how those little plants did grow after they were released from the confines of the tin cans! From the middle of July until frost our particular corner of the straggling little town was a blaze of color. There were the pansies—great beauties—pale blue and purple and yellow and bronze; there was the petunia bed, a bewildering mass of crimson and white; there was the sweet alyssum, covering the ground with a thick carpet of white and pale green; and there were the balsams and verbenas and the Phlox Drummondii with their never-failing supply of blossoms.

lawn mower had been run over the bed, but up it sprang again in a few days as lovely as ever. For funerals, for sociables, for the sick, for the church, for our own little parlor, we cut the flowers lavishly. Even better than myself did the little lads enjoy that garden. The petunia bed was their own especial property, and they never abused the privilege, only carefully picking a little bouquet now and then. They loved the pansies as all children do, and every Sabbath evening a dainty nosegay of them was gathered by the four-year-old lad and carried to the lady across the street, on whom he had bestowed his childish affections.

August and September came and went, and then when the beauty of my garden had scarcely



BALSAMS.

As the summer days came and went, the sweet peas unfolded their fragrant blossoms, the marigolds lifted yellow faces to the sun, and later on, the cosmos swayed in the breeze on its fairy-like stems. All the enemies of the flower garden attacked that patch of pink and scarlet and yellow and blue. The grasshoppers held high revelry among the sweet pea vines; the cut worms ate oft the nasturtiums and left them to wither in the summer sun, and the ants undermined the heliotropes that were as the apple of my eye. But, in spite of it all, the plants grew and flourished as it seemed to me plants had never flourished before.

Time after time that summer, my sharp shears cut down the sweet alyssum as smoothly as if a

began to wane, when the pink geraniums had become a deep rose under the autumn sunlight, when the double larkspurs were lifting up rich spikes of bloom, and the ground was pink and lavender with the fallen balsams, I was called upon to say good-bye to it all. We belonged to the itinerancy and the command had come, "Move on!" But the work of my garden is not yet ended. When another summer comes my pansies and petunias will tell to some one else their message of love and good cheer, and perhaps incite them to plant other flowers there to carry forward the good work. And never again will I be heard to say that the seasons are too short for annuals here in Northern Iowa.

MARY PIXLEY SMITH.

**MARCH.**

Sometimes in early spring we hear
The clear sweet note of Phebe bird,
While from the depths of wooded hills
The moan of chill March winds is
heard,
And willow boughs are swinging free
As ring the notes "Phebe, Phebe."
Yon clouds of fleecy white and gray
Are tossed and turned by every gale;
The sun climbs up high o'er the way;
The wind sighs o'er anemones pale
Which slumber low, where damp
brown leaves

Lie dead, with wreaths which autumn weaves.

Dear are the harbingers of spring,
Redbreast, bluebird, and gay Phebe,
Loud their notes through woodlands ring
When summer crowns each bush and tree
With leafage green. Then, far away—
Now near, I hear their roundelay.
Bland April smiles on grass blades green,
And May doth lavish treasure rare,
But changeful March doth surely fill
With gladsome songs the wintry air;
Amid the storms and wild winds free
Gay song birds sound spring's jubilee.

J. H. S.

IMPROVED SCHOOL GROUNDS.

HAT the school grounds should be the most attractive place possible instead of being what they usually are, has been in my mind for many years a firmly fixed idea. A dozen years of persistent, patient work in the line of this idea have produced some experience and some results

that may prove suggestive. I shall describe the results upon one yard and briefly note some of the means employed to make the improvements.

The building is a brick structure, faces east, and has in front an acre of ground in the form of a square. A broad walk extends from the front door half way down and then branches diagonally to each corner. From each side of the front door a walk extends around the building. The first thing was to secure some trees. Native trees from the neighboring woods were readily procured. We secured those of good form and fair size, and transplanted them promptly and carefully. Our favorites were the elm, the hard maple, and the linden. Each has naturally a handsome shape as well as beautiful foliage. About a dozen promised all needed shade, and we were anxious to avoid injuring the grass. The beauty of the sod must be preserved, for it is the real setting to the whole. Some suggestions from Vick's Floral Guide on lawn making were very helpful. A thin coating of land plaster and ashes each spring many times repaid its cost by the increased richness of coloring and rapidity of growth quickly seen in the velvety carpet.

To shut off the rear yard a hedge of arbor vitæ was run from each corner of the building to the fence. The north wing of the building is set some twelve feet back from the front line of the main part. This left a triangular piece of ground between the building and the walk.

The angle formed by the building is just north of the tower. In this shady corner we made a rockery of spar and marble chips, which we filled with ferns from the woods. A bed of fuchsias with a border of sweet alyssum around the base looked very pretty against the green and white background. Near the center of the triangle was a small round bed of choice pansies or tea roses. Planted near the rockery and close by the wall was a Virginia creeper which reached nearly to the eaves, and formed for six months in the year a very pretty drapery of foliage. A Queen of the Prairie rose near it reached a height of more than twenty feet and bore one summer more than five hundred roses. This had to be taken down each fall and lightly covered with straw. When well fed with a fertilizer it not only bloomed abundantly but also sent up strong new wood for the following year. Near the corner of the building were a Clematis Jackmanni and a Clematis candida. While these plants were at their best the foliage was fairly hidden by the profusion of showy blossoms.

On the main part of the building there was another Virginia creeper. Near the door were planted each year some strong growing annual climbers. The Cobaea scandens won our favor on account of its rapid growth, fine foliage and large bell-shaped flowers.

On the lawn were several round flower beds. Two of these were usually filled with showy geraniums and nothing proved more satisfactory. One bed was devoted to some showy annual, as phlox, and the other was filled with whatever our whim demanded. Several rustic baskets and four iron vases were set up where they looked most attractive. A very durable and attractive basket was made as follows: Get a kerosene barrel, cut about six inches out of the middle, and then make two good sized tubs. Give them a layer of dull paint, and then cover them with tolerably straight branches running parallel to the staves. The sticks should be about an inch in diameter and should retain their bark. Cut them so that the outline of the tub may have a *serrate* form on both top and bottom. Trim with wild grape vine, and give the whole a coat of oil, or else a coat of dark brown paint. Set the tub on a post about eighteen inches high, and weave around the post some large strong grape vines, in such a form as to make a good broad base. Another very neat basket is made in a similar way by cutting the top of the tub in scolloped form and then neatly covering with bark, cedar bark may be procured in almost any lumber yard. This fits nicely, looks well, and is very durable. This basket counterfeits a large stump quite well.

Perhaps the thing of most interest to our little people was a home for the birds. A large rustic bird house was erected on a twenty-foot walnut post. This was the summer house of our bluebirds and martins, to which they received a cordial welcome with each recurring spring.

"Ah, but all this costs money, time and patience." Yes, *all* these; but the investment pays large dividends. To note the educative influence on the children and the effect on their home yards, to find that the roughest boy will carefully protect the flowers, to see how proud the patrons become of "our school grounds," to enjoy the wondering surprise of strangers when told that for eight years never a plant was stolen—these were *some* of the returns. Not

one cent was expended from the public treasury for this purpose. Voluntary contributions from the children, added to the fund from a simple little entertainment, furnished the funds needed and gave to the pupils a sense of part ownership. Some of the best plants were "wintered over" by pupils and friends. This plan does not burden any individual and secures a nucleus for a new season.

J. W. L.

Sparta, Wis.

A WEE GARDEN SPOT.

I SHALL never forget the miniature garden I had some ten or twelve years ago. We lived in Lexington, Kentucky, and had a house and lot, but no garden. I was always fond of fresh vegetables, and it has perhaps been a sentimental fancy of mine that one's *own* vegetables have a superior flavor, crispness or other good qualities, which no vegetables we can buy ever possess. I cast about in my mind what I should do for a garden spot, for I could not hope for more than a spot, and the only place available was a sort of clay heap or bank in the back yard, which had been made by dumping there the dirt which could scarcely be called soil, but only dirt, because it was not in a proper place! This spot could not have been more than six or eight feet by four feet. As unpromising as it looked I recognized that I must accept the inevitable, and use it for my garden. I could not make a wilderness blossom like a rose, but perhaps I could transform this unsightly heap into vegetable garden.

A stronger pair of hands than mine, much to the disgust of the owner of them, I must confess, spaded at it and leveled it. The two little "tots" hauled in their little wagon some cow manure, and by dint of much raking and stirring the bed was ready for the seeds. I planted lettuce, beet and radish seeds. Various firms were anxious to introduce their several fertilizers at the A. & M. College, and I begged some "bone dust" for my wee garden; whether it was my faith or the bone dust which wrought the wonderful result I am almost at a loss to answer, but certain it is I never had such excellent "luck" before. I grew all the beets we wanted for our own use, all the radishes and lettuce wanted for ourselves and our next neighbor. And *such* lettuce! We thought its equal had never been grown. Our house stood diagonally to the lot, fronting the northwest. When I found my garden prospering so well I thought I might with safety venture into larger fields, and include tomatoes among my "cultures." I therefore dug a trench along the back of the house, which there had a southeast exposure, and planted some tomato seeds. It was a warm, wet, very wet, spring. Those tomatoes were given a generous allopathic dose of bone dust and they grew, and they grew, almost equal to the famous beanstalk. They looked above the eaves of the kitchen roof and served as "ornamental as well as useful" vines. They were the first tomatoes I had ever attempted to raise, and I felt very proud of them. How pretty the fruits did look to me when they first began to grow pink—and how luscious they were when ripe. I shall never forget their rare flavor, though I have not the faintest idea whether they were the Acme or some other "best variety." And so, I say, do not despair when you have no great vegetable garden, but hunt up a "spot" and make the most of it.

MRS. W. A. KELLERMAN, Columbus, O.

ABUTILONS.



BUTILONS are sometimes called flowering maples because of the shape of their leaves. I find the abutilon to be one of the most satisfactory house plants. It will grow most anywhere and under most any conditions. If there

is a plant besides the geranium that "beareth all things" and is still kind; that can "be all things to all men," except being non-floriferous, it is the abutilon.

Get a few good ones and you will hardly fail to have flowers all winter. The abutilon grows well and blooms almost constantly. The plants need some training to make them shapely, but a judicious pinching will give them comeliness of form as well as beauty of form. If you want a tree-shaped plant let the main stalk grow as tall as desired, then behead it, this will cause branches to start out, these in turn must be pinched back to form new shoots upon themselves. The more shoots the more flowers.

If a shrubby growth is wanted begin the pinching earlier, this will cause the branches to start sooner; the branches will need pinching back from time to time, but an elegantly shaped abutilon is easily secured, just the little nipping here and there and everywhere in due time. The flowers are borne at the axil of the leaf and hang their graceful bells in great profusion. The colors are varied, pink, white, yellow, orange-brown, etc. There is a double abutilon, the flowers are of a yellowish brown and very rich and handsome in appearance. My double abutilon has not blossomed as well as the single varieties, but blossoms or no blossoms the plants are pretty, the foliage being mottled green and yellow. Another point that endears the abutilon to me is the fact that as far as my experience goes it is not subject to the ravages of the red spider. The green aphis does attack it upon occasions, but this pest can be abated; the scale also attacks it sometimes, but this, too, can be handled; but let the red spider in and there is little chance for plants that cannot bear spraying and spraying. I consider the red spider one of the worst plant enemies with which the growers of plants in common windows have to contend.

Ipswich, S. D. ROSE SEELYE MILLER.

A WINTER GARDEN.

THERE are few flowers sweeter than those that bloom from November to May in my winter garden. Fragrant Neapolitan and Russian violets, richly colored pansies and dainty pink-tipped English daisies grow altogether in a glass covered frame under the snow. Adjoining the frame is a very much smaller one with a pane of glass for a roof, and over in one corner, as if to isolate itself more completely from its naturalized cousins, stands a clump of dusty green leaves surmounted by thick velvety white stars—the treasure of my garden—an edelweiss. This plant, taken from its mountain home in the Tyrol in 'eighty-nine, and carefully planted in front of a mirror in a cold frame partly filled with leaf-mold and sifted lime, proves, beyond doubt, that the edelweiss,

rarest of all flowers, may be grown in North America.

Early in August I choose some warm sunny spot, well protected from the north winds, to set out the young violet and pansy plants which are intended for winter blooming. They should be planted about six inches apart in a cold frame, not less than a foot deep of rich light soil. It will be necessary to water the plants occasionally when the earth around them crumbles; but during heavy or prolonged rains they must be covered with glass or straw, as too much moisture will rot the roots. Violets grow far better in a cold frame than in a hot bed, because the former is entirely dependent upon the heat it draws from the sun, while the latter holds its own heat. On the coldest days in winter the glass covers should not be removed at all, and at night mats made of woven straw or rushes should be placed over the entire frame and kept in place by stout boards. There are many days in winter, especially in November, warm enough to have the frames uncovered, and the plants will be all the healthier for the air and sun. The covers should, however, be returned to their places at night, as a sudden frost would blight the flowers. These plants must be watched very carefully both in summer and in winter, for there is a certain disease shown by small brown specks upon the foliage which will destroy the violets in an incredibly short time unless the imperfect leaves are cut off. The flowers will have but scanty bloom during November and December, but the profusion comes in February and March, often running into April. BELLE BATCHELDER.

Bath, N. H.

HOLLYHOCK-COMPOST.

I NOTICED in a fall issue the mention of a hollyhock fourteen feet high. Last summer I visited near Oakland, California, and saw and measured one double yellow hollyhock which was seventeen feet high and still growing in August when I left. I was assured that it reached a height of nineteen feet the previous year. I believe it is the banner hollyhock. In the same yard was a rose "Cloth of Gold," I believe, which had over seven hundred buds showing yellow and full blown roses at one time. But California is not the South, the East nor the Northwest, as its climate tends to produce large garden products and differs from the climate of almost all other parts of the United States.

Last spring when clearing up the yard I dug a hole two or three feet deep and three or four feet square into which I dumped a lot of refuse, stable manure, hen manure, leaves, rotted sods, a little ashes, chip dirt, etc., and covered the whole over with two or three thicknesses of sods turned grass down, the pile was kept wet so it did not burn and this fall I had the nicest potting soil to be had. The rotted sods could be easily broken up and were full of root fiber, the ashes and manures were well composted and with a little care the right proportion could be obtained. The sods were from rich ground and were full of garden loam. I then added a portion of black sand from a lake shore, fine and full of white crystals, to prevent the soil from baking. The garden loam was heavy clay loam and when pressed in the hand retained the shape of the lump without breaking, enough sand was added to it so that when the hand was

opened the mass would spring and gradually crack and separate. I think the whole compost heap will improve with age, as too fresh manures will tend to breed white worms. I have killed the worms with hellebore in the water used for watering plants infested. The white powder was worked into the soil after the water settled.

It is a great convenience to have a bottle of strong tobacco tea on hand. I make mine so thick it is about like "black strap," all the particles of tobacco are strained out. A tablespoonful is enough for a gallon of water and sure death to green aphids. W. R. S. JENKS.

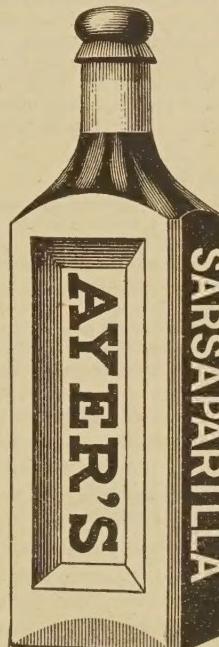
Alexandria, Minn.

If, like the summer flower
That blooms,—a fragrant death,—
Keen music hath no power
To live beyond its breath,
Then of this flood of song
Let me drink long!

—Richard Watson Gilder.

"Only the Scars Remain,"

Says HENRY HUDSON, of the James Smith Woolen Machinery Co., Philadelphia, Pa., who certifies as follows:



"Among the many testimonials which I see in regard to certain medicines performing cures, cleansing the blood, etc., none impress me more than my own case. Twenty years ago, at the age of 18 years, I had swellings come on my legs, which broke and became running sores. Our family physician could do me no good, and it was feared that the bones would be affected. At last, my good old

Mother Urged Me

to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I took three bottles, the sores healed, and I have not been troubled since. Only the scars remain, and the memory of the past, to remind me of the good Ayer's Sarsaparilla has done me. I now weigh two hundred and twenty pounds, and am in the best of health. I have been on the road for the past twelve years, have noticed Ayer's Sarsaparilla advertised in all parts of the United States, and always take pleasure in telling what good it did for me." *

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.
Cures others, will cure you

Letter Box.

In this department we will be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

A Frosted Rubber Tree.

Please tell me what to do with my rubber tree. It is a young one, nearly three feet in height. The leaves next to the window have been frosted and turned black.

S. E. TIBBALS.

Somerset, Ky.

Nothing can be done to replace the leaves which have been destroyed. All that can be done is to keep it where frost will not touch it again and wait for future growth to repair the damage to some extent, or at least to partially conceal it.

Dahlias From Seed.

I planted a paper of dahlia seed March 4th, 1892. They came up quickly, but for some reason most of them damped off. Those which lived grew rapidly, and when about a month old I pinched off the ends of the plants; these grew strong and stocky, and at the time of planting out, which was the latter part of May, they were large plants. They grew well, and the 4th of August one commenced blooming, it was a deep scarlet and very double; the flowers were somewhat imperfect at first, but increased in size and beauty as the season advanced. This variety bloomed continuously until destroyed by frost. Others bloomed, but not until autumn; the last had large perfect flowers. The tubers were of good size when taken up, but those plants which did not bloom much had the largest tubers. I send this hoping that it may encourage the raising of dahlias from seed. Thanks for that article in the December number "The Minister's Dahlias."

Mrs. E. B. D.

Willington, Conn.

Quack Grass.

Two years ago we plowed a piece of ground in which we hoped to establish a flower garden, but have been unable to do so on account of the great quantity of quack grass which we have not succeeded in exterminating. In the next number of your Magazine will you kindly inform me how to proceed to destroy the grass, and do you think it possible to use the place for flowers the coming summer? Hoping to find the reply in the next number of your valuable Magazine.

M. E. H.

Keeping the ground plowed and not allowing the grass to grow will in time cause the roots to die. This is a difficult practice, for unless the ground is almost continuously plowed, dragged or hoed over the grass will grow. Sowing the ground with buckwheat and plowing in as soon as in bloom and sowing again immediately and keeping up this treatment for two years will do much to exterminate the quack. As soon as any of it appears it must be destroyed. A place infested with quack grass is not suitable for a flower garden.

Violets.

Please tell us at your leisure what soil to use for violets and the conditions promoting the greatest number of flowers. Few amateurs succeed in getting blooms.

M. E. F.

Lafayetteville, N. Y.

The best soil for violets is a good limestone clay loam; sandy soil is not desirable. To make a bed for violets we should prefer to take sods from an old pasture, on a strong, loamy soil, and let them lie in a heap for a year, in layers alternating with a few layers of good stable manure, and turning all once or twice in the meantime. A correspondent of the *American Florist* last year described his method of raising violets as follows: During September or October the runners are pricked into boxes where they soon strike. After they are well rooted they are potted into two-inch pots and placed in a cold frame where they remain till spring. During the winter they

are given abundant ventilation whenever the weather permits and an occasional syringing on bright days. The latter part of April they are planted out, one foot apart, and kept moist during dry weather. They are placed under cover the last week of September, at not more than 10 inches from the glass, being lifted with a good big ball of earth, so as to do very little damage to the roots. Violets do not like heat. All they want is the frost kept out of the house or frame.

About Onions.

The cut worm has taken my onion crop the last two years. Is there any way to prevent it?

What is the way to make onions bulb? Does rolling or breaking down the tops do any good? Does seeding too deep cause them to go to root so badly?

North Fork, Canada. J. N.

By the cut worm in this case we suppose is meant the onion maggot. If this conjecture is right then we should advise the crop to be raised on new land; if this course is impracticable then top dress the soil with lime or ashes and harrow it in just before seeding; a good dressing of ashes will greatly help. A dressing of coal ashes after seeding has been known to be beneficial.

As to the bulbing of onions, of course a good strain of seed is the first requisite. Still, in very wet seasons the plants will sometimes bulb poorly. Rolling the tops is no particular benefit. In the preparation of the soil good onion growers do plow deeper than five or six inches; a shallow soil checks the root growth and induces bulbing.

India Rubber Plant.

Will you oblige a subscriber by giving some advice as to the culture of the rubber plant, they so often have a yellow leaf or black spots on them; some say they require a great deal of water, others say very little. I refer to house plants; do they require much sunlight in winter, or is it best to rest them in darker parts of the room?

J. D. L.

St. Louis, Mo.

The rubber plant wants a good exposure to the light, but will bear for a time a partial shade. The soil should be kept moderately moist. The leaves should be kept free from dust by frequent syrings. Yellow and black spots on the leaves are sometimes caused by leaving drops of water to stand on them. The beauty of the plant is its foliage and this should be kept scrupulously clean.

Garden Queries.

I am very much pleased with your Magazine, have gotten some very valuable information through it and am especially interested in the "Letter Box." Would like to know in your next number if your Brazilian morning glory will run well up netting wire or if it wants strings to wind around and around as does the old fashioned morning glory?

Will cannae dowell in flower beds, or do they want

to be along the edge of water, and will they stand full exposure to the sun?

Please tell me the name of the plant of which one leaf is enclosed.

What will kill a very small fly which gathers about my house plants? They seem to have their home in the ground, but on digging can see nothing. I have my pots filled with ground from under where an old pig pen once stood.

What month do you usually send out bulbs and plants for summer blooming?

Where can "hyacinth glasses" be purchased, and what do they cost by the dozen, are they clear glass or same as flower pots?

What is best for sweet peas to vine over, will the net wire do for them?

What treatment does the Chinese sacred lily want through the summer, and what is best for it in the winter? Would like to learn something more of this flower.

I. D. A., Pa.

The plant is a twiner, like the convolvulus but it will fasten itself to wire netting without difficulty.

Cannas do well in garden beds fully exposed to the sun. Warm weather and a bright sun exactly suits them.

The plant of which a leaf was sent for name is Farfugium grande, sometimes called Leopard plant on account of its spotted leaves.

Considerable space was given in our pages last year to this subject and several correspondents reported that they had destroyed the worms. One killed them by watering the soil with weak tobacco water. Another reported success by sprinkling sulphur on the surface of the soil and stirring it in. One recommends a teaspoonful of copperas dissolved in a little water, and then enough water added to make two quarts. Water with this about twice a week, being careful not to get it on the foliage. Several applications may be needed, but it will do no harm to the roots. Another correspondent says: Take a common teacupful of soft warm water and dissolve enough soap in it to make a very slight suds. To this add two teaspoonsful of kerosene, stir thoroughly and then apply to plants as you would in watering. One application in this manner is thought to be enough, but if it should prove not so, repeat it.

Summer blooming bulbs are sent out from January to June.

Hyacinth glasses are made from clear and from colored glass and some are beautifully etched. Some of the finest vases are porcelain. Prices vary from one dollar a dozen to twenty dollars, according to quality, style, etc.

Good brush four or five feet high, when it can be had, serves well as a support for sweet peas. Wire netting is excellent, and by reason of its cheapness and convenience will probably come into general use for the purpose.

The Chinese sacred lily, or narcissus bulb, should be thrown away when it has finished blooming. It is worthless thereafter.

Unlike Unsoluble Cocoas,

which are Indigestible,

and Cocoas adulterated with Starch.

Van Houten's Cocoa

—(BEST & GOES FARTHEST)—

leaves no Sediment on the
bottom of the cup.

BALLS OF FIRE

hurled into the ranks of an army could not have created the excitement and dismay that our

MURRAY \$55.95 BUGGY and \$5.95 HARNESS

have caused among the Buggy and Harness Manufacturers, Dealers and Agents throughout the United States. **FOUR YEARS AGO** we began selling our Murray Buggies and Harness direct to the consumer, barring out all Middlemen in the shape of the Dealer and the Agent, and giving to the consumers themselves the benefits of the immense profits heretofore squeezed and coaxed out of them by that class of men. We were fully convinced that by selling at first cost to the consumer direct, and by giving them the most substantial, the newest styles and the best finished work that could be produced, we would be eminently successful.



What has been the result of our four years' work in reforming the Buggy and Harness business of the country?

The result is simply this—that to-day our name is a criterion of **QUALITY and LOW PRICES**. Our "MURRAY" Buggies and Harness are more widely used than any three makes in the whole country. We have had to increase our Plant from year to year, until now we have the best facilities for serving our customers of any factory on the face of the globe.

WE'VE OUR FIGHTING CLOTHES ON!

and from now and henceforth the war will be more bitter than ever. The support we have received from all parts of the country fully warrants us in saying that we have friends by the Hundreds of Thousands, and with their support, we will in the coming season make a record that will even eclipse our past glorious success. All people except fools have enemies—we have ours; they are the Factories, Dealers, Agents and Imitators, who are sore at our unprecedented success, and the loss of the "soft snaps" which they previously had, and they now spend their many idle hours in talking against the "Murray" Buggies and Harness. We like to have them talk, for they only advertise our work that much more—as any person easily sees, and were we not a most dangerous rival, they would not spend so much of their valuable (?) time in "grunting" against us. To these so-called "croakers" we can only say, that they have our sympathy, while we have the trade. If saving "Dollars" amounts to anything whatever to you, we're entitled to your support and trade. Write us for the **GRANDEST CATALOGUE** ever published; it contains about one hundred and fifty pages of illustrations and prices, which will be of great interest to you. Will mail you this Catalogue **FREE OF CHARGE** if you'll simply drop us a line asking for it.

THE WILBER H. MURRAY MFG. CO., CINCINNATI, OHIO, ANNIHILATORS OF HIGH PRICES AND EXORBITANT PROFITS.

Primary Questions.

Your Magazine has been a welcome visitor and I would not be without it. Will Dorothy Lincoln please tell us how she keeps the Petunia over winter; does she let it flower in the garden during summer, and how does she treat it during the winter? Can stock and verbenas be treated the same way, if not will some of the readers please give their experience in regard to raising seed of double ten-weeks stock? Is it best to put house plants in the garden during summer or would you advise them to be kept in pots in the open air? By mentioning house plants I mean begonias, cactus and other house plants. M. E.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Air Plant—Bryophyllum.

What Mrs. A. H. B., in January Magazine, page 38, calls "air plant" is the same a friend brought me from Bermuda. The little plants around the edge of the leaf, like miniature trees, are very curious and they will easily root by placing them in soil, without which they will not flourish in our dry air. The flower is said to be curious but I did not succeed in getting a bloom. A. G. S.

Poplar Ridge, N. Y.

The plant here referred to is undoubtedly Bryophyllum calycinum, belonging to the order Crassulaceæ, the same as the houseleeks. A leaf laid on the surface of soil slightly moist will make plants from its edge and throw down roots into the soil, thus rapidly propagating itself.

Euonymus.

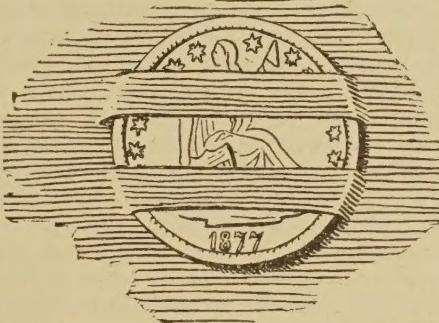
Why are not the merits of euonymus set forth by florists? It is, indeed, as its ancient generic name signifies, "of good repute." Perhaps "spindle tree" is a more familiar name. The form with variegated foliage—light yellow and dark green, some leaves, and branches even, of yellow, entire—is one of the most valuable pot shrubs for amateurs that is grown. Gray says it is planted South under the name of Chinese box. It would make the handsomest hedges, I think. I have never seen it offered for sale in any catalogue. E. A. L.

Fulton, Ill.

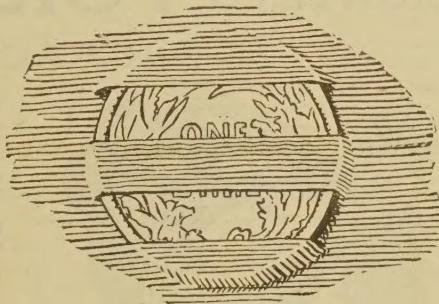
The variegated Japan euonymus, the one here referred to, is a fine evergreen plant, and has been offered for sale by the trade in this country until it has become very common—so common that at present many dealers do not offer it. The plants have stood out unsheltered in the open ground here for the past two winters unharmed. In the spring we shall see how the present trying winter affects it. It is a common occupant of Southern gardens, especially the variety with all green leaves. Many people have had it, supposing it to be a camellia, and been disappointed when they learned that its flowers are insignificant.

MAILING COIN.

SINCE the powers that be took away our convenient fractional currency, people are often puzzled to tell how to remit small sums by mail. There are no postal scales ordinarily in the dwelling-house, and sometimes there is doubt as to how much in silver can be inclosed for 2 cents postage. If a sheet of note paper and an envelope of the usual size and thickness are employed, any sum from 5 to 85 cents will go.



with a 2-cent stamp. If 40 cents is inclosed, a half sheet of note paper must be used, or 4 cents postage will be needed. If extra heavy envelope and paper are employed, then 35 cents in silver, instead of 40 cents, will demand 4 cents postage. From 50 cents up to 85 cents may be sent in coin for 4 cents postage, with the ordinary envelope and a sheet of note paper, and by using a half sheet, 90 cents may be in-



closed. It is feasible, therefore, to mail fractional parts of a dollar in silver.

Those disposed to use a little ingenuity in fastening coin to writing paper, for greater security, may learn how to slit the paper with a knife and insert the silver by consulting the accompanying engravings; or, if preferred, fold the note sheet over the silver and confine the latter with a pin to prevent escape, as sometimes

loose coin will wear through the envelope and drop out.

We would like to add to the foregoing sensible remarks from the *Poultry World* of Hartford, Ct., another good way, and that is to fold over one of the lower corners of the letter sheet sufficiently to cover the coin and then fasten the edges of the fold just enough to keep the coin in place. In this way the coin is secured firmly so that it will not rattle about.

In England it is unlawful to mail a letter, containing a coin of any size, without its being registered, and if so mailed through inadvertence the registry stamp is put on by the government and the receiver has to pay the fee before it will be delivered.

Convenient fractional currency notes of 25 and 50 cents ought to be issued by the U. S. government. Write your Congressman about it and urge the passage of a bill authorizing it.

Signs of Health.

You don't have to look twice to detect them—bright eyes, bright color, bright smiles, bright in every action.

Disease is overcome only when weak tissue is replaced by the healthy kind. Scott's Emulsion of cod liver oil effects cure by building up sound flesh. It is agreeable to taste and easy of assimilation.

Prepared by Scott & Bowne, N. Y. All druggists.

YOUR NAME on 25 Lovely Cards, 1 Ring, 1 New Found
lar Button, Scarf Pin, Watch Chain, Col-
lar Buttons, Cuff Buttons, and our new POPULAR MONTHLY
3 mos., all for 10c. & 2c. for postage. CLINTON BROS., CLINTONVILLE, CONN.



ROCHESTER, N. Y., MARCH, 1893.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester as "second-class" matter.

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One copy one year, in advance Fifty Cents.

One copy twenty-seven months (2 1/4 years), full payment in advance, One Dollar.

A Club of Five or more copies, sent at one time, at 40 cents each, without premiums. Neighbors can join in this plan.

FREE Copies.—One free copy additional will be allowed to each club of ten (in addition to all other premiums and offers), if spoken of at the time the club is sent.

All contributions and subscriptions should be sent to Vick Publishing Co., at Rochester, N. Y.

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\$1.25 per agate line per month; \$1.18 for 3 months, or 200 lines; \$1.12 for 6 months, or 400 lines; \$1.06 for 9 months, or 600 lines; \$1.00 for 1 year, or 1000 lines. *One line extra charged for less than five.*

All communications in regard to advertising to Vick Publishing Co., New York office, 38 Times Building, H. P. Hubbard, Manager.

Average monthly circulation 200,000.

Read ad. of Farmer's Call, page 79.

IMPROVING SCHOOL GROUNDS.

The communication which appears in this number entitled "Improved School Grounds" is from an educator of long service and is the testimony of actual experience. It shows what has been done in improving school grounds and what good results have followed. It shows that the work necessary can be accomplished with little or no outlay of money, or at least no demand on the public treasury or school fund; all that is needed is an interest in the matter, and then the attention and work required becomes a recreation. The good result affects the whole community.

WHERE IS MY DOG?

This is the title of a book from the publishing house of Fowler & Wells Co., New York. A sub-title is, "Is man alone immortal?" The author is the Rev. Charles Josiah Adams, of Rondout, N. Y. Without assuring our readers that the writer has satisfactorily answered either of the questions which serve as titles, it may be said that his subject provides the opportunity to bring out a fund of anecdote relating to dogs and other animals which is rich and enjoyable. The manner of the writer is very fascinating. One of his purposes, Mr. Adams tells his readers, is "to call attention to the fact that man possesses the physical faculties in common with the beast. * * * To attempt to show that in a degree the lower animal has the intellectual, moral and spiritual faculties in common with man." The many incidents of intelligence and tender sentiment that are given should incline the reader of the book to consider animals, especially those of the domestic sort, more kindly, even if he be not convinced of their possessing all the faculties delineated by Mr. Adams.

APPLE SCAB.

At the late meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society a valuable paper was read by Professor Beach of the Geneva Experiment Station, giving some accounts of the trials which

have been made for the prevention of the apple scab, with a summary of the results and of the most successful means employed.

Spraying the trees with copper compounds has proved most efficient, and without naming the different preparations in detail it may be said that the dilute Bordeaux mixture is equal to either of the others in any case, and the only one that can be used in connection with Paris green when it is desirable to add that material for the destruction of the larva of the codlin moth.

The dilute Bordeaux mixture is formed with six pounds of sulphate of copper, four pounds of lime, and 45 to 50 gallons, that is a barrel, of water.

The first application is made after the leaf buds open and before the first leaves are half grown. The second application, after the lapse of about ten days and before the flowers begin to open. The third spraying is made immediately after the blossoms fall, using at this time Paris green at the rate of a quarter of a pound to a barrel of the mixture. A fourth application of the Bordeaux mixture and Paris green is advised to be made after ten days or two weeks more, and a fifth spraying with the same materials after two weeks more. The three last sprayings to do double duty as fungicide and insect destroyer.

THE RICHARDIAS.

A writer in the *Journal of Horticulture* reviews the genus Richardia, stating that there are five good properly described species in cultivation. These are R. Africana, the common calla with white spathes; R. albo-maculata, spathes creamy white with a purplish blotch at the base, the leaves being spotted with white; R. hastata, spathes dull yellow with a blotch of crimson at the base, leaves green; R. melano-leuca, spathes rather small, not folded trumpet-like, pale yellow, purple at the base, leaves spotted; this species differs from R. albo-maculata in having shorter leaf stalks with a few setiferous hairs at the base. R. Rehmanni has small white spathes in form like those R. Africana, and lanceolate instead of hastate leaves.

Besides the above there are some new ones; R. Elliotti, raised from seeds from South Africa, and called there red arums. The writer is informed that the Kaffirs have only one word for red and yellow, and this explains the seeming mistake. The plant reproduces itself from seed.

It has hastate, spotted leaves and large, clear yellow spathes. R. Pentlandi is a handsome plant, distinct and superior to the last, equaling almost in stature and size of spathes the common arum lily; it differs from this species, however, in the texture of its leaves, in the color of its spathes, and its truly deciduous habits of growth. Its spathes are a clear yellow.

R. aurata is a form offered by a French nurseryman, and calla nilotica and Pride of the Congo have been offered in the trade. The real standing of the three last named has not yet been verified, and they may be true and worthy or not.

A GREAT DICTIONARY.

The work now in preparation which is to be issued as the Standard Dictionary, is undoubtedly to be of great value. In several respects it will probably be in advance of any dictionary now published. It will be specially full in scientific and technical terms. The editors of the various departments are eminent scholars engaged from the first rank of each special division and are acknowledged authorities. The publishers, Funk & Wagnalls Company, 18 Astor Place, New York, state that the work will embody many new principles in lexicography. It will contain nearly 2,200 pages, quarto size; over 4,000 illustrations, made expressly for it; more than 200,000 words, over 100,000 words more than any other single volume dictionary. A letter recently received from the publishers says that the work is going into permanent form at the rate of about eight pages per day. Their weekly payroll for salaries alone is nearly \$3,000, and it is estimated that when the first books are ready for the market it will have cost them not less than the enormous sum of five hundred thousand dollars. The editors have been given free course to make the dictionary as nearly perfect as it is in their power to do, regardless of expense. Just when the work will be issued cannot now be stated, but advance subscribers for it have a very considerable discount given them.

Catarrh Cannot be Cured

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O.

Sold by druggists, price 75c.

MADAM ROWLEY'S TOILET MASK (OR FACE GLOVE.)



Is a natural beautifier for bleaching and preserving the skin and removing complexion imperfections.

It is soft and flexible in form, and can be easily applied and worn without discomfort or inconvenience.

It is recommended by eminent physicians and scientists as a substitute for injurious cosmetics.

COMPLEXION BLEMISHES may be hidden imperfectly by cosmetics and powders, but can only be removed permanently by the Toilet Mask. By its use every kind of spots, impurities, roughness, etc., vanishes from the skin, leaving it soft, clear, brilliant and beautiful. It is harmless, costs little, and saves many dollars uselessly expended for cosmetics, powders, lotions, etc. It prevents and removes wrinkles, and is both a complexion preserver and beautifier.

Illustrated Treatise, with full particulars, mailed free. Address, and kindly mention this magazine,

THE TOILET MASK CO.,

1164 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

To be Worn Three Times in the Week.

CROCUSES.

Sweet Crocuses! fair wonder flowers!
Which bloom while yet chill breezes blow,
When sift no sunbeams through the hours,
And scarce are gone the ice and snow!
From snowflakes formed, you hold on high
Chaste cups to catch the springtime's bliss,
With violet veinings from the sky;
Ah! what a miracle is this!

Now keep thee, Crocus cups, as white
As drifted snow upon the hills;
Hide golden hearts, which shine as bright
As sunshine which the Summer fills.
Ye cannot your sweet message keep,
From hearts which in woe's darkness grope;
Though sorrows now are drifted deep,
There shines for all the star of hope.
So, heart of mine, fresh courage find;
The simple means at hand employ;
Find strength against an adverse wind,
To weave from woe the blooms of joy.

DART FAIRTHORNE.

A DETROIT MIRACLE.**A GREAT TRIUMPH FOR MEDICAL SCIENCE.**

Particulars of One of the Most Remarkable Cures on Record Described by the Detroit News—A Story Worth a Careful Perusal.

DETROIT, Mich., February 20.—A case has just come to light here, the particulars of which are published in the *Evening News*, which will be read with considerable interest, as it records the remarkable achievement of a medical discovery, which has already won great and enduring fame. The story is told by the *News* as follows:—

The following paragraph, which appeared in the *News* a short time ago, furnished the basis of this information—a case that was so wonderfully remarkable, that it demanded further explanation. It is of sufficient importance to the *News'* readers to report it to them fully. It was so important then that it attracted considerable attention at the time. The following is the paragraph in question:—

"C. B. Northrop, for 28 years one of the best known merchants on Woodward avenue, who was supposed to be dying last spring of locomotor ataxia, or creeping paralysis, has secured a new lease of life and returned to work at his store. The disease has always been supposed to be incurable, but Mr. Northrop's condition has greatly improved, and it looks now as if the grave would be cheated of its prey."

Since that time Mr. Northrop has steadily improved, not only in looks, but in condition, till he has regained his old-time strength.

It had been hinted to the writer of this article, who was acquainted with Mr. Northrop, that this miraculous change had been wrought by a very simple remedy called Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. When asked about it Mr. Northrop fully verified the statement, and not only so, but he had taken pains to inform any one who was suffering in a similar manner when he heard of any such case. Mr. Northrop was enthusiastic at the result in his own case of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. It was a remedy that he had heard of after he had tried everything he could hope to give him relief. He had been in the care of the best physicians who did all they could to alleviate this terrible malady, but without any avail. He had given up hope, when a friend in Lockport, N. Y., wrote him of the case of a person there who had been cured in similar circumstances by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. The person cured at Lockport had obtained his information respecting Dr. Williams' Pink Pills from an article published in the Hamilton, Ont., Times. The case was called "The Hamilton Miracle," and told the story of a man in that city who, after almost incredible suffering, was pronounced by the most eminent physicians to be incurable and permanently disabled. He had spent hundreds of dollars in all sorts of treatment and ap-

pliances only to be told in the end that there was no hope for him, and that cure was impossible. The person alluded to (Mr. John Marshall, of 25 Little William St., Hamilton, Ont.), was a member of the Royal Templars of Temperance, and after having been pronounced permanently disabled and incurable by the physicians, was paid the \$1,000 insurance disability provided by the order for its members in such cases. For years Mr. Marshall had been utterly helpless, and he was barely able to drag himself around the house with the aid of crutches. His agonies were almost unbearable and life was a burden to him, when at last relief came. Some months after he had been paid the disability claim he heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and was induced to try them. The result was miraculous; almost from the outset an improvement was noticed, and in a few months the man whom medical experts had said was incurable, was going about the city healthier and stronger than before. Mr. Marshall was so well known in Hamilton that all the city newspapers wrote up his wonderful recovery in detail, and it was thus as before stated, that Mr. Northrop came into possession of the information that led to his equally marvelous recovery. One could scarcely conceive a case more hopeless than that of Mr. Northrop. His injury came about in this way: One day nearly four years ago, he stumbled and fell the complete length of a steep flight of stairs which were at the rear of his store. His head and spine were severely injured. He was picked up and taken to his home. Creeping paralysis very soon developed itself, and in spite of the most strenuous efforts of friends and physicians the terrible affliction fastened itself upon him. For nearly two years he was perfectly helpless. He could do nothing to support his strength in the least effort. He had to be wheeled about in an invalid's chair. He was weak, pale and fast sinking when this timely information came that veritably snatched his life from the jaws of death. Those, who at that time saw a feeble old man wheeled into his store on an invalid's chair, would not recognize the man now, so great is the change that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have wrought. When Mr. Northrop learned of the remedy that had cured Mr. Marshall in Hamilton, and the person in Lockport, he procured a supply of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills through Messrs. Bassett & L'Hommedieu, 95 Woodward avenue, and from the outset found an improvement. He faithfully adhered to the use of the remedy until now he is completely restored. Mr. Northrop declares that there can be no doubt as to Pink Pills being the cause of his restoration to health, as all other remedies and medical treatment left him in a condition rapidly going from bad to worse, until at last it was declared there was no hope for him and he was pronounced incurable. He was in this terrible condition when he began to use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and they have restored him to health.

Mr. Northrop was asked what was claimed for this wonderful remedy, and replied that he understood the proprietors claim it to be a blood builder and nerve restorer, supplying in a condensed form all the elements necessary to enrich the blood, restore the shattered nerves and drive out disease. It is claimed by the proprietors that Pink Pills will cure paralysis, rheumatism, sciatica, palpitation of the heart, headache, and all diseases peculiar to women, loss of appetite, dizziness, sleeplessness, loss of memory, and all diseases arising from overwork, mental worry, loss of vital force, etc.

"I want to say," said Mr. Northrop, "that I don't have much faith in patent medicines, but I cannot say too much in praise of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. The proprietors, however, claim that they are not a patent medicine in the sense in which that term is used, but a highly scientific preparation, the result of years of careful study and experiment on the part of the proprietors, and the pills were successfully used in private practice for years before being placed for general sale. Mr. Northrop declares that

he is a living example that there is nothing to equal these pills as a cure for nerve diseases. On inquiry the writer found that these pills were manufactured by Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y., and Brockville, Ont., and the pills are sold in boxes (never in bulk by the hundred) at 50 cents a box, and may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., from either above addresses. The price at which these pills are sold makes a course of treatment with them comparatively inexpensive as compared with other remedies or medical treatment. This case is one of the most remarkable on record, and as it is one right here in Detroit, and not a thousand miles away, it can be easily verified. Mr. Northrop is very well known to the people in Detroit, and he says he is only too glad to testify of the marvelous good wrought in his case. He says he considers it his duty to help all who are similarly afflicted by any word he can say in behalf of the wonderful efficacy of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. If any of the *News* readers want any further information, we feel sure Mr. Northrop would willingly oblige them, as he has the writer in relating these facts to him.

PRUNING TOMATO PLANTS.

EXPERIMENTS for testing the effects of pruning and training tomato plants, made by the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, show that the crop matures earlier and the fruits are larger than by the ordinary method. The following is the substance of a bulletin on the subject lately issued:

In order to secure the best results the seed should be sown in hot beds or greenhouses in February or March. The seed is sown in shallow boxes, called flats, and when large enough the young plants are transplanted into similar boxes, two inches apart each way. When transplanted the second time the plants are set four inches apart each way. Boxes may be used the same as before, or the plants may be set in beds, or in four-inch flower pots. The latter plan may appear to have advantages over the others, but in practice it is no better, even though the roots are injured less than when the plants are set in a bed.

The plants ought to be a foot in height, and just coming in bloom, early in May, when they are to be transplanted into the open ground. If they are growing too freely root pruning will check them, and if making a slow growth a little nitrate of soda will help them. If grown in flats the plants may be transferred to cold frames, or even kept out of doors, during the greater part of April. By this means they can be hardened off, which is a very necessary operation. It is not a good plan to set the plants in greenhouse benches, as they cannot be properly hardened before planting.

When pruned and staked, tomato plants will bear much closer planting in the field than if left to themselves. Two feet by four is about the proper distance. As soon as the plants are set in the field they ought to be tied. In order to provide for this the following plan has been found to be satisfactory: Set strong stakes at each end of every row and brace carefully. Smaller stakes may be set at intervals of two rods along the rows. These stakes should be about three and one-half feet in height. Next stretch two wires, of about the size used in baling hay, along the tops of the stakes in each row. Take ordinary lath, or sticks of any kind, of the same length as lath, and stick one just at the side of the place that each plant is to occupy. The upper ends of the stakes are held in place by crossing the two wires back and forth, that is, by weaving the wires around the tops of the stakes, or laths. This makes a neat little trellis, sufficiently substantial for one season, but the material can be used several years in succession.

The plants are trained to single stems and tied to the lath supports. Of course tying must be done at successive intervals as the plants increase in height, until the top of the trellis is reached, after which nothing further need be done in the way of training. All side shoots near the ground, and suckers, must be kept pinched off, as the object to be gained in staking would be lost otherwise. None of the blossoms are to be removed, but simply the leafy shoots and suckers, which bear no blossoms and come out near the ground, and at intervals along the main stock. Pruning away these surplus shoots and tying the plants to supports exposes the fruit to the sunlight and favors early development in a marked degree. Tomatoes thus trained ripen about two weeks in advance of those which are allowed to lie on the ground, are free from rot and larger. The crop per plant is less than by the ordinary method, but because of the higher prices obtained for the fruit the profits are larger.

A BAY WINDOW.

THE engraving presented of a bay window in a country residence tells its own story. How many thousands of homes in the country could be brightened with the assistance of a carpenter to change over and extend some window into a bay, and then the inmates of the house to give it the little attention which would be required to keep it bright with plants and flowers. And then the real value and beauty

CALLA LEAVES WITHERING.

IN REPLY to C. H., Torrington, Conn., whose inquiry appears in the January number, page 39, I would ask—"Has your earthen jar got a hole in the bottom? If not, make one. If the calla was mine I would take it out of the jar and examine the bulb; perhaps it is rotting. If so, scrape all the rot away down to the sound part of the bulb, then take a handful of dry sand and place it on the raw part. Take out



of it would be found to be the cultivation and refinement of minds and hearts which would accompany the cultivation of the plants.

The lady who sent the photograph from which the engraving was made sent with it the following note:

MR. JAMES VICK: DUBLIN, N. H., Jan. 2, 1893.

Dear Sir: I send you today a photograph of my bay window, and I hope it will meet your approbation. The deer's horns are so ornamental and useful that others may try them. So many plants can be hung on them that the lower part of the window makes a delightful alcove in which one or two persons can sit and enjoy the outlook among the mountains.

HARRIET E. PIPER.

the potsherds and pebbles for drainage and instead use about three inches of charcoal; then take soil well enriched with well-rotted cow manure and fill the pot nearly full; make a hole in the soil for the calla, put sand around it so that it will not come in contact with the manure, water sparingly for a few days till the bulb heals, then water with quite warm water every day. Look well to the drainage. Vapor, not too hot, is very beneficial to perfect foliage. Sponging the leaves occasionally is a good practice.

MRS. H. L. MEAD.

Tacoma, Wash.

A WORD FOR THE ANNUALS.

AFTER all that may be said in favor of the perennials and the roses, the garden is incomplete without the beds of beautiful annuals. We want them for their profusion of bloom, their variety, and the fine effects possible to assume by growing in masses. Annuals are the flowers for the million. Everybody that has a yard square of soil to spare, can afford a bed of annuals; for the price of a single pot from the green-house you can get seeds enough to cover several beds.

For showy beds all summer what can surpass the phloxes, petunias, portulaca and verbenas? These can be purchased in mixed seeds, or the varieties of color and markings in separate papers. These are very showy and seldom fail to flower abundantly from June until frost.

The balsams, dianthus, salpiglossis and scabiosa are not quite so showy, but are beautiful in their individuality of form, color and variety.

Then we want a row of poppies. The best double strains produce immense flowers of nearly a dozen colors, many new and quite distinct.

And this leads me to say that the sweet peas should be planted very early; no one ever regrets all the pains taken to grow these beautiful flowers. After many others have lost their beauty and the glory of summer is past, the sweet peas delight the eye and regale the senses with their regal beauty and fragrance.

And then there are the asters, the zinnias, candytuft, calliopsis, and others that vie with the rainbow in colors. Seeds of most of these flowers I have named can be purchased for a few cents a packet. The pleasure to be enjoyed and the satisfaction gained in planting and tending the plants through the summer and seeing them grow and unfold their beauty is rich remuneration for outlay and trouble.

A.

IMPORTANT TO FLESHY PEOPLE.

We have noticed a page article in the Boston Globe on reducing weight at a very small expense. It will pay our readers to send two cent stamp for a copy to Stillings Circulating Library, 36 E. Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

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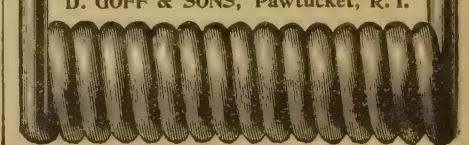
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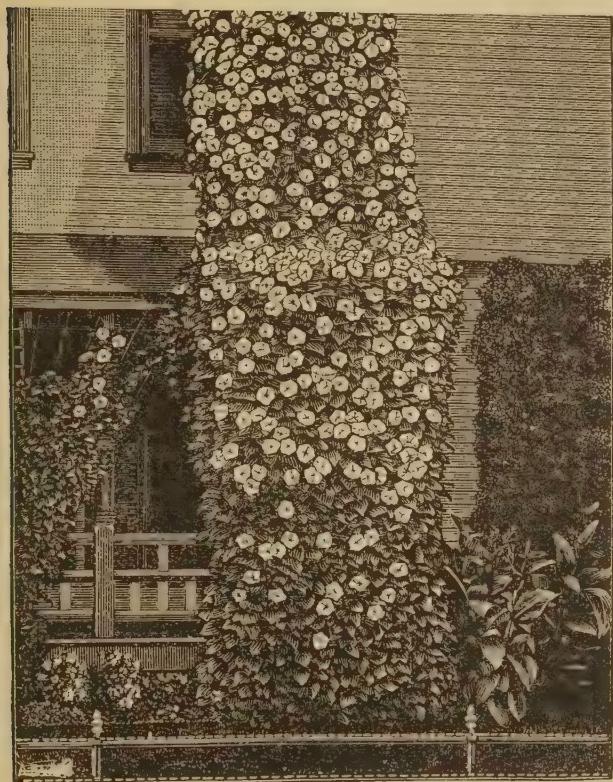
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It has so many desirable features that it will become more popular than any other.

Each, 25 cents; five for \$1.00.

TO GIVE AWAY.

"I wish I had something to give away," said a dear little woman with a large heart and very contracted purse to me. "Try flowers," said I, "a little can of them, and you can be as generous as you please. Perhaps one of your neighbors has had to put on her pin cushion, 'Welcome, little stranger!'" Never mind if you do not know her very well, you may be assured she will appreciate even one flower. Again, there may be crepe on a door, sad hearts within; cut your choicest flowers, they have a language of their own and may be more comforting than words of sympathy. Is anything more lovely than sweet peas? They are made to give away, for the more you pick them the more they come. Stand at the gate and give a bunch to the school children as they pass. Instead of saying to that strange rude boy, "get off that fence!" or "don't swing on my gate!" give him a flower or perhaps a rooted slip. This little kindness may save you a very choice plant or a chance to taste your own rare fruit. Why not have a "give away bed?" Geraniums, petunias, ageratum slip so easily, you wouldn't miss a dozen or two. As for seeds, they should not be kept any more than money. Better exchange, for it's funny, but true, plants like a new place. Haven't you noticed your petunias and asters from your own seeds are not as nice, but give them to the woman around the corner, and in her yard they will flourish mightily.

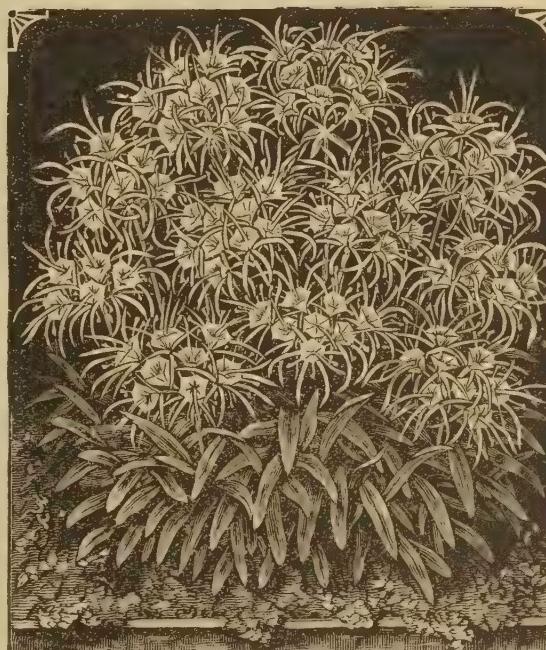
Spider Lily.

Pancratium Carribœum.

A beautiful flowering bulb of the easiest culture, which produces immense clusters of large, white, fragrant flowers. The center of the flower is cup-shaped and the divisions drawn out into long, slender processes, which have been compared to Spider's legs, hence the name "SPIDER LILY." It is a rare and meritorious plant.

After the season's growth they should be kept in a partially dormant state, receiving only water enough to keep the soil slightly moist.

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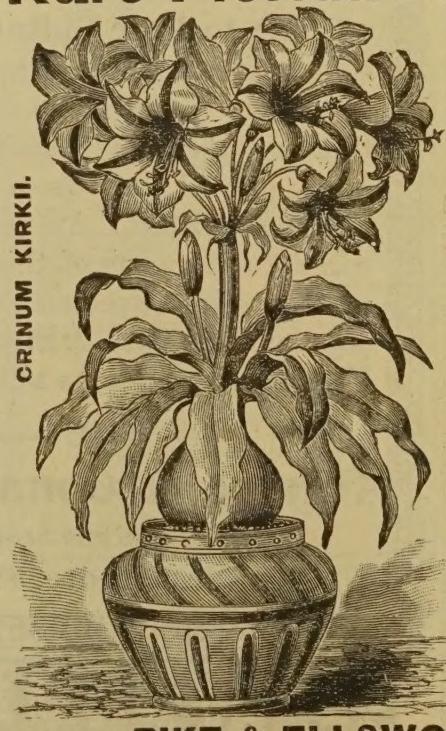
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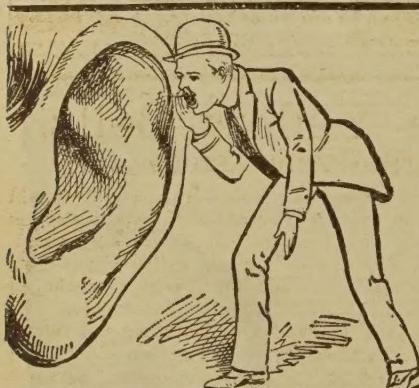
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